

friend Senator KIT BOND, recently reported out an extremely generous budget for veterans—to include a \$285 million increase over fiscal year 1995 for veterans' health care.

Items eliminated from the budget, as originally requested in it, include hospitals in East Central Florida and Travis Air Force Base, CA.

In a consensus document expressing the views and estimates on the administration's budget proposal, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee expressed its own reservations about the need for this additional construction of infrastructure at a time when the veteran population is declining at a rate of 2 percent per year. The GAO recently reported to Congress that with the veteran population declining—even in Florida—there is no documented need whatever for another VA hospital there. We take awfully good care of our veterans. We should—those who bore the battle and their widows and orphans.

So let it be recorded that I personally was incensed, as I know some VA employees were, to see the partisan political message the Secretary sent out to his troops on August 21. I consider it grossly wrong to use employee's pay vouchers or access to the VA computer system to circulate that type of hoorah.

Secretary Brown may—and I think often does—perceive his mission to be a purely political one, to toe the line for this President. But he steps over that line when he uses his access to, and his control over, the taxpayer provided resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs as a means to preach a political message to his civil service subordinates. It is wrong and he knows it is wrong.

Mr. President, Secretary Brown owes it to the veterans he serves, to the Congress, and to the Department he leads, to change his course away from a path of politicized, distorted and exaggerated rhetoric on the stump speeches and toward a course of statesmanlike and steady leadership.

Mr. Secretary, you are now headed toward treacherous shoal waters and it is long over due time for a change in course. Many of us will be watching more closely than ever before.

Save the politics for when you no longer serve in this type of position of trust.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1389 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ROLAND L. "SONNY" MAPELLI

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last month, the University of Denver College of Law opened the Mapelli Brothers' Place in the Yegge Student Center. Mapellis' Place recognizes the wonderful contribution the Mapelli family has made to Colorado and Denver University. It was in commemoration of the Mapelli family who has given so much to the State of Colorado, and particularly to Denver University. It also commemorates the fact that a number of years ago, in the World War II era, the Denver University Law School used to be adjacent to the Mapelli Meat Market. A generation of Colorado attorneys took their legal education within the sight and the sound, and even the smell, of that meat market. Perhaps it even influenced those attorneys throughout their career.

The Mapelli family is typical, I think, of American families who have contributed so much to this Nation. The Mapellis started their meat market in 1906 and, one by one, the brothers were drawn over from Italy coming to this country, some as small children, literally coming on a boat with a name and a location pinned on their clothes, and they would eventually find their way to Denver, CO.

Their story is a story of success for hard workers. To me, the Mapelli Law School will also be a reminder of Sonny Mapelli. He is someone I worked for for many years, and his example of love and devotion to community serves as an example for all Coloradans and, yea, even Americans, for what someone can accomplish when they love their country and love their community and make a project of serving it.

The Mapelli meat market used to be adjacent the Denver University College of Law when it was located in downtown Denver. A generation of attorneys received their legal education within the sound, sight, and smell of the Mapelli meat market.

To me, the Mapelli Place will always call to mind Roland L. "Sonny" Mapelli. Sonny passed away on January 19, 1995, but the memory of his warmth and wisdom will stay with all who knew him.

Sonny and his brother, Gene, were owners-operators of Mapelli Brothers Co. which was founded by their father and his brothers in 1906. In 1969 Mapelli Brothers Co. merged into Monfort of Colorado. Under Sonny's direction, 50 Mapelli Food Distributing Co. branches

were operated throughout the United States. Sonny was also owner-operator of Mapelli Farms & Ranches.

Sonny was a faithful and devoted husband and father. He was devoted to his faith and believed in serving his community, State, and Nation. Sonny also served on several boards ranging from Loretto Heights College in Denver to Colorado State University Land Council in Ft. Collins and Norwest Bank in Greeley. He was a member of the Colorado Cattle Feeder's Association, Mountain/Plains Meat Association, and the National Cattlemen's Association.

Sonny received numerous awards. He received the Knute Rockne Award for outstanding civic achievement in 1961 as well as Who's Who in Finance and Industry in 1984. He was honored by the Colorado Meat Dealers as Man of the Year in 1975; by the Longs Peak Council, Boys Scouts of America as Weld Distinguished Citizen of 1994, along with many other distinguished awards.

Sonny had a distinguished military career. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in August 1942. He subsequently served 3 years overseas with the 8th Air Force, serving in the European Theater in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland campaigns. Sonny was commissioned a warrant officer in London, England, in 1944. He received a Commendation for Outstanding Achievements from the 8th Air Force commanding general. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1945 and remained in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1955.

You could not see Sonny and not come away with a smile on your face. Colorado voters loved him and elected him to the Denver City Council from 1955 to 1959. He was appointed to the State House of Representatives for 1961-62 and won election to the State Senate in 1962 by the largest margin of anyone in Denver.

Sonny's remarkable success in business and politics came from his genuine concern about others and a wonderful sense of humor. All who came in contact with him felt a little better about themselves and the world.

Everyone has their favorite Sonny story. They reflected his common sense, his love of others, and an extraordinarily humorous view of the world. When you write out his stories, though, they lose something. It was not so much the story itself that was funny, but Sonny Mapelli himself. Without him those stories and perhaps our lives lack some of the sparkle that makes life a joy.

Sonny Mapelli is survived by his wife Nomie, and daughters Terri DeMoney and Jerri Gustafson; by his grandchildren Travis, Tyler, and Lindsey DeMoney, and Drew and Karly Gustafson; and by his brother, Eugene Mapelli.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MOE BILLER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to extend warmest 80th birthday wishes to a stalwart of the trade union movement—Moe Biller, president of the American Postal Workers Union. Moe was born November 5, 1915, in New York City, where he graduated with honors from Seward Park High School. After attending City College of New York, he served in the Army's Adjutant General Corps from 1943 to 1945.

He began his professional career as a postal clerk in New York City in 1937. After returning from the service, Moe recognized the strength and importance of the union. He became active in the New York area, where he was elected to many union positions of trust and leadership. At various times, he has held virtually all leadership positions within his own union, and has been elected to the executive council of the AFL-CIO, the organization's policy-setting body. He is also executive vice president of the AFL-CIO Public Employee Department.

In the military, the highest accolade that can be given to a commanding officer is that he was a soldier's general. For his leadership, Moe Biller has been known as a member's leader.

In New York's sometimes tumultuous labor history, Moe never let his members down; and, in turn, they have always given him their confidence and support. He has not failed them at the bargaining table, and he has never been afraid to lead. He has always been a strong, effective, powerful voice for working men and women. It was not always easy. Recognizing the winds of change, Moe was a key player in the committee that brought the merger of five predecessor unions into what is now the APWU.

Beyond dealing with employers, Moe Biller has also served the interests of his members in the society at large and worked to extend the reach of the union to those who were sometimes excluded. He has been active in many outreach organizations, especially Cornell University's Trade Union Women Studies Program and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Moe has also gone beyond the union movement to serve others. Among the numerous charitable organizations to which he has contributed his considerable talents are the Leukemia Society of America, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, United Way International, and the Combined Federal Campaign.

As we wish Moe, his sons Michael and Steven and his wife Colee and daughter Aleesa our best on his 80th birthday, we should all remember he always went the extra mile for his members, his

union, and his country. Happy birthday, Moe Biller.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, November 2, the Federal debt stood at \$4,982,592,325,829.97. We are still about \$27 billion away from the \$5 trillion mark, unfortunately, we anticipate hitting this mark sometime later this year or early next year.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,914.00 as his or her share of that debt.

NOTE

In the RECORD of October 26, beginning on page S15773, the statement of Mr. JEFFORDS was improperly printed. The permanent RECORD will be corrected to reflect the following version.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, let me briefly remind everybody that a while back, when we were dealing with the budget resolution, 67 of us voted not to cut more than \$4 billion out of higher education. This amendment would bring this level closer to where we in the Senate voted earlier this year to be—a \$5 billion cut from the \$10.8 billion. I remind my colleagues of that. I hate to see anybody be inconsistent with their voting, and since 67 voted for something a little more draconian than this, I hope Senators will stay with us on this amendment.

Our amendment restores the 6-month grace period, eliminates the .85 percent institution fee, and lowers the interest rate on PLUS loans, reducing the Labor Committee's instruction from \$10.85 billion over 7 years to \$5 billion.

Let me lay aside the issue of reducing education cuts for one quick moment and explain why this amendment is so important. As I mentioned just a few moments ago, the amendment offered by my Democratic colleagues restores direct lending to current law—or a transition to 100 percent. I simply cannot support such a provision. I have always been a supporter of testing the direct lending program and am on record as opposing the Labor Committee's bill to limit it to 20 percent. Twenty percent in my view is too small, it cuts out schools that currently participate in the program, and that to me is wrong.

However, as I stated during debate of the 1993 reconciliation, I believe in a slow, implementation of direct lending. It should be undertaken thoughtfully and carefully. The amendment offered by my Democratic colleagues is tantamount to a phase-in of direct lending. A phase-in suggests something very different than a thoughtful analysis of the two programs. My fear is that we have already made the decision to go full force without really looking at the advisability of such a move. It is like saying "ready, fire—and then aim". For this reason I support a firm cap on

direct lending. That cap, in my mind should be set at a point which protects the schools that are current participants and allows some room for growth. I suggest that number be set between 30–40 percent.

Mr. President, that is not the amendment we are currently considering. I offered that suggestion to my colleagues as a bipartisan approach. Unfortunately, that amendment coupled with billions of dollars in additional student aid, was rejected by the Democrats and interestingly also by groups purporting to represent higher education. In particular the American Council on Education.

There is agreement that we must balance the budget and do so in a way that protects students, parents, and institutions. That is what this amendment does. It strikes the .85 percent institution fee, restores the 6-month grace period, and eliminates the increase in the PLUS interest rate. Support for this amendment will provide important savings to these students, their parents, and institutions of higher learning.

Eliminating the interest subsidy during the 6-month grace period could increase the debt of an undergraduate who borrows the maximum \$23,000 by almost \$1,000, resulting in additional payments of nearly \$1,400 over the life of the loan. For a graduate student who borrows the maximum \$65,500, the result would be \$2,700 in additional debt and almost \$4,000 in additional payments. Raising the interest rate and the interest rate cap on PLUS loans would increase the total payments of parents who borrow \$20,000 for their children's education by \$1,300.

It simply does not pay to cut education.

Consider the following: More highly educated workers not only earn more, but they work and pay taxes longer than less educated workers. According to a recent study, between 1973 and 1993, median family income dropped by over 20 percent for families headed by a person with a high school diploma or less; but it held steady for those families headed by someone with 4 years of college; and increased for families headed by someone with 5 years of college or more.

We need to encourage our young people to pursue higher education both to keep us competitive and to help balance the budget. Unfortunately, the opportunity for individuals to go on to postsecondary education is getting slimmer and slimmer. Pell grant awards have not kept pace with college costs. Students have had to increase borrowing in order to make up the difference. In 1985–86, the actual maximum Pell grant of \$2,100 paid 58 percent of the total annual cost of attendance for a 4-year public institution (\$3,637). In 1993–94, the maximum Pell grant of \$2,300 paid only 36 percent of the total cost (\$6,454).

Because Federal grant programs have grown much more slowly than the cost